

## Introduction

Strengthening Families Washington (SFWA) focuses on helping families strengthen family bonds, understand childhood development and cope with the challenge of parenting through building the five Protective Factors

that are known to help reduce child abuse and neglect. By reaching out to parents and encircling them with support, we can help strengthen families, which protects children and builds strong communities overall. In order to reach families in a variety of ways, we have

reached out and formed partnerships across the state, from perinatal mental health organizations, domestic violence coalitions, legal organizations and libraries and others to bring concrete supports, strengths based messaging, social connections and support to families across the state.



### Medical/Legal Partnership

In October 2020, the SFWA team established a partnership with the F.I.R.S.T. (Family Intervention Response to Stop Trauma) Legal Clinic. FIRST Legal Clinic provides free legal representation and peer advocacy services for parents of newborns and pregnant parents experiencing substance use challenges and/or at risk of child welfare involvement.



### Parent Leadership

The Parent Advisory Group (PAG) is a sounding board for decisions, ideas and questions that shape the future of the Department of Children, Youth & Families (DCYF). The PAG is made up of parents and family caregivers of children, from birth through 12 years old.



### Child Abuse Prevention Month

Each year, SFWA, the Washington State chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America, participates in April's Child Abuse Prevention recognition. This year, we partnered with several library systems across the state, home visiting programs, parenting and family support programs, family resource centers and other organizations to distribute thousands of protective factors coloring books, temporary pinwheel tattoos, stickers and vegetable and herb seeds.



### Perinatal Supports

SFWA has collaborated with Perinatal Support Washington (PS-WA), a statewide non-profit dedicated to shining the light on perinatal mood and anxiety disorders (PMADs) and treating them effectively, are interested in strengthening the capacity of communities to address PMAD needs and increasing services for families. Through this partnership we provide expert coaching and technical assistance, training and peer connections to organizations around the state, who provide community building and concrete supports for perinatal mental health and resources and referrals specific to their community.

## Aligning Services and Systems for Prevention Impact

*Looking at multiple efforts in Washington State where prevention has been maximized by new partnership opportunities*



### Domestic Violence Partnerships

Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WSCADV) is the leading voice to end domestic violence in Washington State. SFWA has partnered with WSCADV to provide training on domestic violence and safety planning for home visitors across the state.